

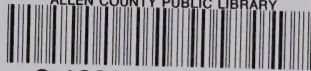
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History
of
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CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Clayton, Indiana

1854-1954

Compiled by
MRS. D. A. ANDERSON
for
CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1954

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CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Clayton, Indiana

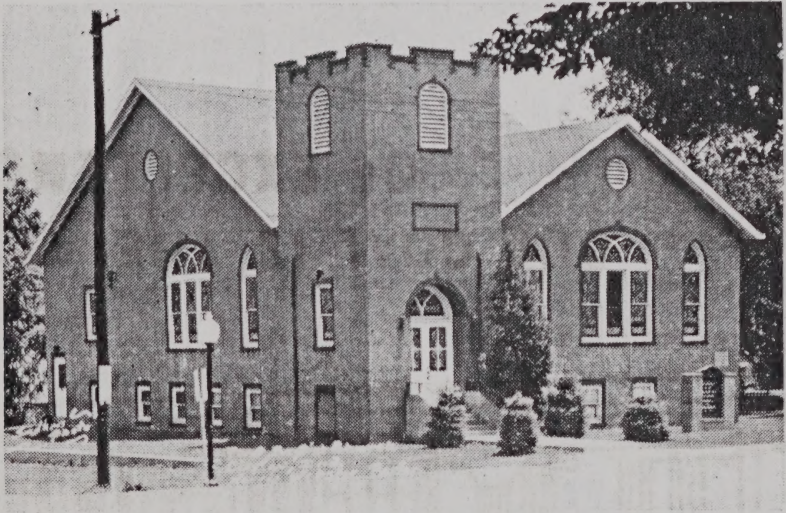
THE CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH

1824-1924

Compiled by
MRS. D. A. ANDERSON
for
CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1924

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History
of
CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Clayton, Indiana



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HISTORY OF CLAYTON BAPTIST CHURCH

On March 27, 1824, a Baptist Church was organized at the home of William Pope. This was called "White Lick" Church, because most of the members lived near White Lick Creek. Francis Edmondson was a minister at Belleville.

After 30 years Clayton and community had grown in population and it was decided a Baptist Church in Clayton was needed "To promote more interest in the Lord's work, so by request of a number of Brethren and Sisters, desiring to be constituted into a regular Baptist Church, a council was convened at the Presbyterian Meeting House in the town of Clayton, Hendricks County, Indiana, March 11, 1854. The Council was composed of Elders John Vawters, Jacob Rynerson, M. Elliot and Brethern Davis Boswell and Moses Crawford. The Council was organized by appointing Elder Vawter as Moderator and Davis Boswell as Secretary. The Council thus organized proceeded by calling for the Articles of Faith and Church Conenant. The Articles of Faith and Church Covenant being approved by the Council, the following Brethren and Sisters, having obtained letters of dismission from the Belleville Church, had their names enrolled:

Nickolas Osborn	Milton Asher	Catharine D. Christie
Richard Worrell	Mary Asher	Mariah Jane Christie
Jane Worrell	Bennet Osborn	Priscilla Martin
Francis Edmondson	Sarah Osborn	Calvin Crawford
Jane Edmondson	John Rynerson	A. D. Crawford
Hiram Norman	Sarah Rynerson	Daniel Jones
Hannah Norman	Andrew J. Pearce	Lucinda Jones
James Glover	James L. Jones	Lucy Ann Scott
Mary Glover	Mary Jones	James Maddox
Samuel McCormack	Jacob Buchannon	Jesse Osborn
Matilda McCormack	Mary Jane Buchannon	Milton Hendricks
Harden Osborn	Mary Shirley	William Downs
Priscilla Osborn	Rosannah Scott	James B. Asher
Susannah Christie	Melissa Shepherd	Thomas J. Osborn
John Buchannan	Jane Taylor	Malinda Osborn
Sarah Buchannan	Ary Adaline Christie	Nancy Jane Osborn
Mary Ann Jordon	Louisa Cooper	Silas Osborn
Simon Buchannon	John C. Rynerson	Levi Buchanan
Ann Buchannon	Dienna Jane Rynerson	
Nancy Buchannon	Mary Ann Rynerson	

The Council then proceeded to recognize them as a Church in good order by giving them the right hand of Fellowship, after which the members constituted in mutual friendship and fellowship gave each other the right hand of fellowship. Concluding prayer by Elder John Vawter was followed by an appropriate Charge and remarks suited to the occasion by Brother Davis Boswell. The church thus organized elected Elder Samuel McCormack moderator and John Rynerson, secretary. After the rules of decorum were adopted, it was agreed that the church should be known as the "Baptist Church at Clayton, that the second Saturday and Sabbath in each month be the regular days in course for our stated meetings to commence respectfully at 11 o'clock, A.M."

Following are the minutes of the second meeting:

"Agreeable to Notice, the Church convened on the 1st Day of April, 1854, in one room of the Tavern, prayer by Elder Samuel McCormack.

The following brethren were then duly elected Trustees: Richard Worrell, Francis Edmondson, and John Rynerson, to serve as such Trustees until their successors are duly elected. Adjourned."

Signed by A. S. Wills, secretary pro tem and Samuel McCormack, moderator.

The meeting above was at the Tavern because of a misunderstanding in reference to the meeting house." (Tavern one hundred years ago was a Hotel or Inn.)

Samuel McCormack was given a license to preach in 1833 and John Rynerson was licensed in 1840. At one time Elder Rynerson was called as pastor for the Clayton Baptist Church for one year, "for which the Church agrees to pay him \$50."

In October of the first year the Baptist Church was still holding meetings in the Presbyterian Church because we find this note in the October minutes, "The Baptist Church in Clayton, Hendricks County, To the Presbyterian Church in the same place, Dear Brethern, We hereby with pleasure express to you our most profound thanks for the kindness you have displayed towards us in granting us the use of your Meeting House. We design having our meetings on such days as are not occupied by your selves. So far as practical we also desire to continue to cooperate with you in carrying out a union Sunday School, ardently desiring its prosperity."

"We send you this epistle by our worthy Brother Asher. Done by order of the Church at her meeting for business October 13, 1854."

In the minutes of March, 1855, we find Rules of Decorum were very strict and we quote from them as follows:

"We believe that dancing, public plays or candy parties as conducted in the present day by assemblies of parties of both sex is improper and ought to be recognized by the Church as licencious; therefore, be it Resolved that we regard it as a trespass to assemble with, encourage or participate with such assemblies in these exercises."

The first Baptist Church building was on the North West corner of Main and Iowa streets, where Lefforge's hardware store is now.

In December, 1859, a committee was appointed to "Superintend the purchase of a bell", such committee being B. Worrell and S. McCormack. However, they evidently did not attend to the job for they were discharged in January, 1860, and Brothers Harden Osborn and Francis Edmondson were appointed to "Solicit contributions to buy a church bell".

Brother Robert N. Harvey was Baptised into the Clayton Baptist Church in December, 1860, and was a member until 1866. He was a Pastor several years and conducted many of our ancestors funerals and performed

the marriage ceremonies for many couples who remember him with the utmost love and respect. Whenever the Church needed help or was without a pastor it seemed they could always call on Brother Harvey and Brother J. E. Sherrill.

The men in the Army were not forgotten because in June, 1863, a Committee was appointed to write letters to members who were in the Army.

In June of 1872 we find that "A collection of \$15.15 was taken to pay Lot T. Bray for 2 doz. Devotional, Tune and Hymn Books and for repair on Seats."

It is interesting to note the manner in which the minutes were written an hundred years ago. A typical meeting was written as follows:

"Clayton Baptist Church. Met Saturday at 10:30 A.M. and after Divine Service organized for business.

1st. Invited Brethren from Sister Churches to sit in council with us.

2nd. Opened a door for the reception of members.

3rd. Took up a collection of \$7.00 for the Pastor.

Adjourned to meet 2nd Saturday in January.

Samuel McCormack, moderator and Richard Worrell, church clerk."

The second Church was built where the Marathon Station is now, at the north east corner of Main and Iowa streets. In January, 1875, a Building Committee was appointed of William Crawford, John Glover, V. L. McCormack, Francis Edmondson, and Ben Worrell. In March they reported they had \$2,230.50 subscribed. However, they decided not to build "at the present time". Again in May, 1875, another building committee was appointed to consider building the church, or repairing. The second Church was built in 1877 and L. W. Trent was pastor when the Church was built. Brother Francis Edmondson deeded the ground to the Church. The Church was not dedicated, free of debt, until October 12, 1879, by J. N. Clark of Indianapolis, F. M. Buchannon, and the Pastor J. F. Beamen.

January 13, 1877, meeting note, explained that it was "moved and seconded that the Church borrow from the Trustees the sum of \$50 for 20 years, said sum having been left in their hands by Sister Hunt, deceased, with the request that the same shall be loaned and the interest used for the expense of the Church. 2nd. Appointed a committee consisting of Harvey D. McCormick and J. Y. Crawford to raise means to pay the balance due on the new church house."

We find in July, 1883, they papered the church house for \$65.83, committee for papering church was Brother J. Y. Crawford and Sisters Mary Ader, Belle Garrison and Cora Weesner, and Brother L. T. Bray.

In February 12, 1876, L. T. Bray was "set apart for the Gospel Ministry, the ordination to be on Thursday, March 25, at 10 o'clock A.M."

On January 12, 1884, a Sabbath school was organized with Brother L. T. Bray, superintendent; Brother J. Y. Crawford, assistant superintendent; Jane Werrell, chorister; Sister Allen, assistant chorister; Adda Crawford,

secretary; Mary Ader, assistant secretary; Lydia Bray, treasurer; Benny Worrell, organist; and Lydia Bray, assistant organist.

In March, 1888, the Church decided to put in a Baptistry.

In January, 1896, the members were asked to buy one gallon of coal oil and 20 members pledged themselves to buy oil.

An "Old Peoples Meeting" was held in 1900 and was held each year thereafter for nine years. The "old people" were 65 or over. A man from Indianapolis was always invited to line the hymns.

In May, 1902, the Church moved to put in a furnace and lights. Lights were put in in September, 1902, and the furnace was put in in March, 1903.

In the minutes of January 7, 1905, Brother Oliver Morton West reported that a fence had been built on the north side of the church lawn at a cost of \$14.01. Also Brother Al Glover reported that we owed Brother William Weesner \$7.20 for service as sexton and for gasoline. Brother Glover was appointed to make up the money.

The building fund for the present Church was started in 1917 with a gift of \$1,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ader. An amount of \$3,000 was left to the Church in the will of Jamima Craven in 1923. The Building Committee was Morton West, Mrs. Ethel Ader, Harry Givan, and William McCormack.

Ground breaking exercises were held on the new building site on the afternoon of March 23, 1927. Memorial Services were held in the old building on the evening of October 23, 1927. The present Church was dedicated November 13, 1927, by Rev. T. J. Parsons, Rev. H. A. Hayward, Rev. Carlos M. Dinsmore, Mrs. N. B. Leslie, and the Pastor, Rev. Leslie L. Long.

The Missionary Society has been organized 61 years and has always been a great benefit to the Church. An Aid Society and different Sunday School Classes have been a great help also. Mrs. N. B. Leslie conducted an 11 weeks Evangelistic service in 1908 and had approximately 90 additions to the church.

We find a membership roll for 1918. Names in alphabetical order are:

Ethel H. Ader	Flora Rogers Boyd	Sarah Busby
Robert L. Ader	Edward F. Buis	Mrs. Mattie Burns
Mary B. Allen	Lucile Buis	Jerry Bresanahan
Rozora Allen	Monta Buis	Howard Cain
Mae Francis Anderson	Arthur Burns	Burchard Carr
Horace Anderson	Clifton Burns	Maude Carr
George Armstrong	Mable Burns	Dr. J. Burchard Carr
Hester Barnes	Obe Burns	Jane Carter
Arthur E. Benjamin	Otha Burns	Sarah Caylor
Mrs. Arthur E.	Sarah Burns	Aletha Chastain
Benjamin	Theodore Burns	Commodore Chastain
Floyd Berlin	William A. Burns	Floyd Clark
Minnie Berlin	Mrs. William A. Burns	Lena Clark
Eva Brooks	Benjamin F. Burris	Zella Clark
Rosalie Brooks	Flora Burris	Martha Clawson

Jemima D. Craven
 Maude Cromwell
 Edward H. Conn
 Alice Walker Cox
 Dee Cline
 Nancy Darnell
 Albert K. East
 Mary East
 William M. East
 Dollie Ford
 Leonidas Ford
 Roy Ford
 Basil Franklin
 Leonard Franklin
 Russell Franklin
 Earl Givan
 Harry R. Givan
 Hattie C. Givan
 Merrill Givan
 Sarah Elmetta Givan
 Corah Gilleland
 Frances Jones Glover
 Helena Glover
 Hubert Glover
 Joseph H. Glover
 Lawrence Glover
 Lee Glover
 Rosa Glover
 Vincent L. Glover
 Celice Goodnight
 Ola Goodnight
 Benjamin F. Goss
 Elsie Leitzman
 Guthridge
 Katie Underwood Hall
 Martha Terrell Hall
 Harry Harlan
 Ella Harper
 Nettie Harper
 Rev. S. A. Hayworth
 Mrs. S. A. Hayworth
 Elizabeth Hayworth
 Finley Henderson
 Lula Hill
 Mary Hopwood
 Fred Howard
 Alice Ison
 Clara Ison
 James P. Ison
 Mary Ison
 Martha Ison
 Russell Johnson
 Kate Worrell Johnson
 J. Sherry Jones

Media Jones
 S. Smith Jones
 Anna Kincaid
 Earl Kincaid
 Carrie Leitzman
 Sewel Leitzman
 William E. Leitzman
 Flossie Longmire
 Ruth Longmire
 Effie Huber Maddox
 Elizabeth J. Marley
 Dessie McDade
 Letha McCormack
 William A. McCormack
 Sereptha Middleton
 Grace Moon
 Myrtle Moon
 James Noel
 John Patterson
 Mrs. John Patterson
 Mary E. Pearson
 Dot Pickens
 Gretchen Pickens
 Paul Pickens
 Loveta Pounds
 Agnes Raber
 Ralph Raber
 Nora Richardson Reitzel
 Daisy Richardson
 Daniel M. Richardson
 Mary C. Richardson
 Lillie F. Robinson
 Robert L. Robinson
 Allen A. Rogers
 Helen Rogers
 Hertha Rogers
 Zuna Rogers
 Anna Rushton
 Cecil Rushton
 Nina Rushton
 Newton Rushton
 Rebecca Rushton
 Marie Burns Russell
 J. Sigel Ryan
 Melissa Ryan
 Myrtle Ryan
 Mary Terrill Rybolt
 Eva Rynerson
 Maude Rynerson
 Merlin Rynerson
 George G. Rynerson
 Kate Rynerson
 Martha Sawyer
 Cora Terrell Scudder

Fern Rogers Shaw
 Jennie Catron Smiley
 Clita Smiley
 Lee H. Smiley
 Lloyd Smiley
 Woody Smiley
 Hattie J. Smith
 Frieda Staley
 Ora H. Stone
 Isabella Terrell
 William R. Terrell
 Gertie Thompson
 Stella Thompson
 William Thompson
 Anna Underwood
 Elizabeth Underwood
 Garnet Underwood
 G. T. Underwood
 John Underwood
 Mrs. John Underwood
 Leonard Underwood
 Murriel Underwood
 Oliver Underwood
 Ray Underwood
 Thomas Underwood
 Victor Underwood
 Anna Walker
 Ethel Walker
 George Walker
 Henry Walker
 Mary Walker
 James Walls
 Jane Walls
 Leora Walls
 Cora A. Weesner
 Goldie Weesner
 William M. Weesner
 Amy West
 Effie West
 Oliver Morton West
 Opal West
 Jane White
 George White
 Christopher C. Wilson
 Albert H. Worrell
 Lee K. Worrell
 Love Brown Worrell
 Mary E. Worrell
 Ruth Worrell
 Willard E. Worrell
 Herbert Young

Those, living, of longest continuous membership in the Clayton Baptist Church are 1st, Sister Lydia Burns, who came into the Church in 1885 by Baptism; 2nd, Brother Harry Givan, who came in by Letter in 1891; 3rd, Sister Ethel Ader Edmondson, by Baptism in 1892; and 4th, Sister Mae Anderson who was baptised January, 1896.

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